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THE ORPHAN GIRL.

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The snow laid thick upon the moor,
No mother kind, no father good,
When at my lonely cottage door,
A helpless orphan girl I stood.
Each night and morn I prayed to Him,
Who is the orphans' only friend;
That He would keep me far from sin,
And my daily bread would send.



My prayers were heard! the flowers began
To bloom more lovely than before;
From far and near the people ran,
To see them blossom round my door.
Then ladies fair came to buy
My flowers, that were both scarce and rare
Some in bunches they would tie,
And others weave amongst their hair.



The summer sun, with genial glow,
Soon made my little garden smile,
My strawberries quickly ripe did grow,
None finer were within a mile.
The neighbors' good prices paid for all,
Declaring there was no finer treat;
And every day friends would call,
I thought my happiness complete.



My speckled hens began to lay,
Of eggs I had an ample store;
My stock increased from day to day,
The chickens ran across the moor.
The ducks were swimming in the pond,
The geese were feeding on the green;
And in a little field beyond,
The sheep and lambkins were at play.



There came so many swarms of bees
That I could scarce find hives for all;
The finest fruit bent down the trees,
Large grapes hung clustering on the wall
I sat beneath their shade so mild,
With useful work, or some good book;
Sometimes to teach a neighbour's child,
The pleasing task I undertook.



My brother, dear, from India came,
A fortune he had made with care.
He did not covet wealth or fame,
So gave to me an equal share.
He told me of his dangers past,
Of storms and shipwreck on the sea;
And how he was preserved at last,
To make a happy home for me



How very glad I am to see,
My brother, dear, once more at home;
He is so good and kind to me,
I hope he never more will roam.
I have enough, and some to spare,
From poverty, I am secure;
But God has only sent this share,
That I may "give unto the poor."



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